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Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination: 3rd Edition

Mary E. Kite, Bernard E. Whitley Jr.

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This textbook provides students with an overview of what psychological theory and research have to say about the nature, causes, and reduction of prejudice and discrimination. It balances a detailed discussion of theories and selected research with applied examples that ensure the material is accessible to students, including those who have only a basic knowledge of psychology.

The book addresses several interlocking themes, many of which are addressed in more detail than in other textbooks (such as research methods, the development of prejudice in children, the relationship between prejudice and discrimination, and discrimination in the workplace). The first theme is the nature of prejudice and discrimination, followed by a discussion of research methods. Next comes the psychological underpinnings of prejudice: the nature of stereotypes, the conditions under which stereotypes influence responses to other people, contemporary theories of prejudice, and how values and belief systems are related to prejudice. Addressed next are the development of prejudice in children and the social context of prejudice. The theme of discrimination is developed via discussions of the nature of discrimination, the experience of discrimination, and specific forms of discrimination, including gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, and appearance. The concluding theme is the reduction of prejudice.

The book has been designed for use by junior and senior college students who have had a course in introductory psychology. However, although the book takes a psychological approach to the issues of prejudice and discrimination, it is written in a style that is accessible to students in other fields, including education, social work, business, communication studies, and ethnic studies. Also, in addition to courses on prejudice and discrimination, the book could be used in courses that cover topics such as racism and diversity. Appropriately supplemented by original-source readings, it can also be used in graduate courses.

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